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Germany to ask for more Saudi oil

BONN, Jan. 17 (R)—West Germany may ask for more oil from Saudi Arabia during a visit by the Saudi Foreign Minister, Prince Saud bin Faisal, starting on Friday, informed sources said today. But Prince Faisal's talks with his opposite number, Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, during his one-day stay would be mainly political, they said. The question of stepping up oil supplies from Saudi Arabia, in the wake of the crisis in Iran, West Germany's biggest supplier, could well be discussed at a meeting in Bonn next month of the two countries' joint economic commission. The sources added, Prince Faisal will also meet Chancellor Helmut Schmidt during his stay.

Price: Jordan 50 fils; Syria 50 piastres; Lebanon 75 piastres; Saudi Arabia 1 riyal; UAE 1 dirham; Great Britain 25 pence.

Atherton starts Mideast talks

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan. 17, (R)—Efforts to revive the stalled Middle East peace talks between Israel and Egypt took an unexpected turn tonight with a two-hour meeting between U.S. Special Envoy Alfred Atherton and Prime Minister Menachem Begin.

Mr. Atherton arrived yesterday to help restart the negotiations and held two sessions earlier today with an Israeli team headed by Dr. Eliahu Ben-Elisar, Director-General of the Prime Minister's office.

But the American envoy later asked for a meeting with Mr. Begin who, together with Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, conferred with Mr. Atherton at the Prime Minister's home.

After the meeting, Mr. Atherton would say to reporters only: "I simply wanted to see Mr. Begin." He also said that he had no formal message from President Carter to Mr. Begin. "But I did convey the President's personal good wishes to the Prime Minister," he added.

In reply to a question, Mr. Atherton described his request for a meeting with Mr. Begin as "perfectly natural and unrelated to either development or lack of development in our meetings with the Israeli team."

The American envoy said he had "used the opportunity to review the general Middle East situation with Mr. Begin and Mr. Dayan."

He said the question of Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab areas was not discussed.

Earlier, Israeli officials had reacted angrily to reports from Washington that President Carter had sent a sharp note to Mr. Begin over the disclosure that Israel plans to set up two new military-style settlements on the Jordan

West Bank and one in the Gaza Strip.

Atherton had an opening round of talks with the Director-General of the Israeli Prime Minister's office, Dr. Eliahu Ben-Elisar. After the first 90-minute session Mr. Atherton would say only that he had had "very serious talks."

Dr. Ben-Elisar, a confidant of Prime Minister Menachem Begin and a noted hardliner, confined himself to saying: "It was a good meeting."

The State Department said there had been conflicting reports, some of which had been denied by the Israeli government, and added that the U.S. embassy in Tel Aviv had requested an explanation.

The United States opposes establishment of Jewish civilian settlements in occupied Arab territories. It was not clear whether the latest decision involved civilian settlements.

Any decision to expand settlements might affect Israel's stalled peace treaty talks with Egypt, officials said.

The Prime Minister's office could not confirm that any such message had arrived from Mr. Carter. But officials said privately that such a move would constitute undue interference in Israeli affairs.

They reiterated the Israeli line that "Nahal" settlements—those manned by men and women soldiers—are in a different class from the civilian outposts which normally rouse such wrath

abroad.

These Nahal settlements quite often turn into civilian ones after a year or when the military personnel have developed agricultural or other enterprises on the site. Informed sources said the current talks would not touch on this subject.

The Knesset (parliament) Finance Committee meanwhile approved an allocation of 710 million Israeli pounds (about \$35 million) to build new housing units at existing Israeli civilian settlements on the West Bank.

Two articles of the draft treaty were in dispute at the time of the breakdown. Egypt wanted a side letter calling for a review after five years of the Sinai security arrangements detailed in article four.

Other side letters were proposed by Egypt, with U.S. backing, to modify a provision in article six that a peace treaty would wipe out prior Egyptian pledges to Arab states.

Another Egyptian demand was for an accompanying letter that would commit Israel to try to establish Palestinian self-rule on the West Bank and in Gaza a year after the pact was signed.

The presence in the Atherton mission of Herbert Hansell, a legal aide of the U.S. State Department, indicated the technical direction the discussions were likely to take. Three other legal experts are on the Israeli team.

Beirut-Amman air drama ends, Shi'ite hijackers arrested

BEIRUT, Jan. 17 (R)—Supporters of the missing spiritual leader of Lebanon's Shi'ite Moslem community have clashed with left-wing forces in the southern Lebanese town of Tyre, travellers said today.

The report came as five devout followers of the leader, Imam Musa Sadr, were formally charged with hijacking a Lebanese airliner with 73 passengers and nine crew last night.

The seven-hour air drama, during which the hijackers demanded the return of the Imam, ended early today when the group released their hostages and surrendered at Beirut airport.

Travellers said two pro-Imam students had been killed yesterday and four wounded in Tyre after members of Amal (Hope)—an organisation founded by the Imam to improve the lot of Lebanon's substantial Shi'ite community—clashed with local left-wing forces.

A Reuters correspondent who visited Tyre yesterday heard machine gun fire and several loud explosions in the centre of the port city.

It was not immediately known if the clashes were connected with the hijack.

The six hijackers commandeered the Middle East Airlines (MEA) Boeing 720 to press demands for the return of Imam Musa Sadr, spiritual leader of Lebanon's substantial Shi'ite Moslem community.

The Imam disappeared under mysterious circumstances last August after flying to the Libyan Jamahiriyyah. He has not been heard of since but the hijackers, who surrendered to Lebanese security forces, say he is imprisoned in Libya.

The hijackers, armed with a pistol, a grenade and a Soviet-type AK-47 assault rifle, seized the four-engine airliner shortly after it took off on a scheduled flight from Beirut to Amman.

Initially they forced the pilot to change course to Cyprus. But the authorities there blacked out the runway and refused it landing rights.

The aircraft then returned to Beirut and for the next six hours the hijackers negotiated with Lebanese political and religious leaders over their twin demands: the return of the Imam and per-

mission to hold a press conference.

Late last night they released a first batch of 13 passengers—women, children and old men.

Seventeen Jordanians were aboard the hijacked MEA aircraft. One of them, a civil servant travelling with his wife and children, told the Jordan Times on Wednesday that the six hijackers were "very serious" about their demands for the return of Imam Sadr.

He said the hijackers placed explosives throughout the airliner, and made a statement, in Arabic and English, to the passengers explaining their cause.

"The plane was taken over as we were getting close to Amman," the passenger said, "and the hijackers told us we were all about to become martyrs for their cause. We were afraid."

The passengers were never aware of the plane's destination, the passenger said, and when it was circling over Larnaca, Cyprus—before the runway lights there were switched off to prevent it landing—the people aboard thought they were over Amman.

When it returned to land at Beirut, the passengers thought they might be in Greece or Libya.

The passenger said there was relief among the male passengers when the women and children were taken off the plane at Beirut at 10:45 p.m.—two and a half hours after the aircraft had landed again at Beirut. He said it made it a little easier for him and his fellow passengers to face the prospect of being killed; but they still asked the hijackers to provide them with food and drinks during the long wait at Beirut airport.

The passenger said the hijackers were well organised and polite throughout the ordeal. Some of the passengers panicked and fainted at first, but the atmosphere became more relaxed later on, he said.

The Amman-bound passengers returned to Amman, aboard another aircraft, at about 4 a.m. Wednesday morning, ten hours after the drama began.

The hijackers agreed to free the rest of the passengers and the crew only after their unnamed leader gave a brief and, at times, confusing press conference.

The chief hijacker attacked

Libyan Leader Muammar Al-Qadhafi by name, accusing him of engineering the Imam's disappearance because he disagreed with the Imam's support for Ayatollah Khomeini, the exiled Iranian religious leader who also belongs to the Shi'ite Moslem sect.

The hijacker's reference to the Ayatollah fuelled speculation that the group had been inspired, in part at least, by the Shi'ite-backed militancy that has swept Iran and forced the Shah to leave.

The hijack leader said the group had commandeered the aircraft to demand the return of the Imam, whose photograph still adorns posters in Beirut suburbs with the inscription: "Where is the Imam of Arabs?"

The press conference was told that the hijackers were not terrorists and did not belong to any political party. But, the hijack leader said, Lebanon's Shi'ites would become terrorists unless the fate of their spiritual leader was cleared up.

The hijack was the first of its kind involving an MEA plane since June 1977 when a lone Lebanese commandeered a similar aircraft. He was overpowered and arrested in Kuwait.

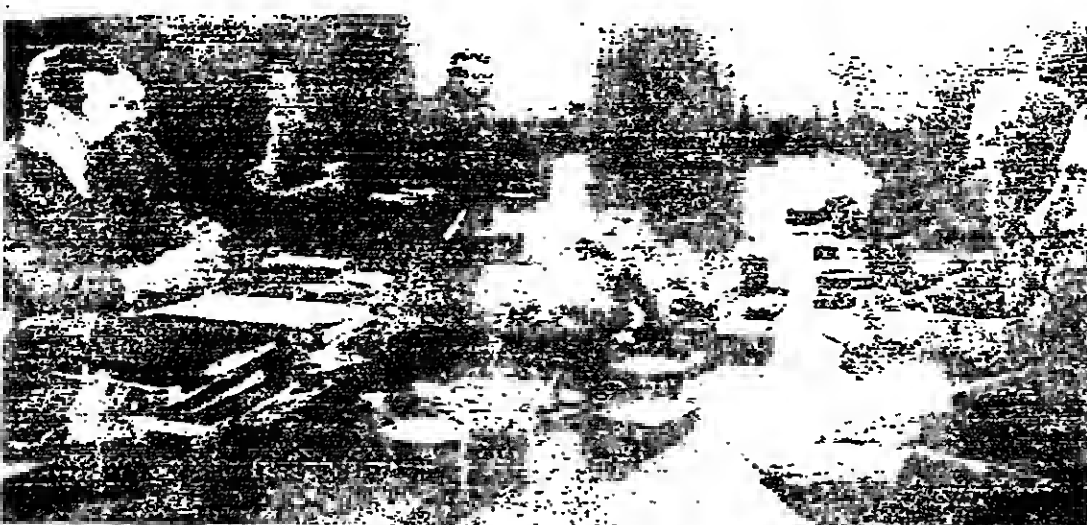
UNIFIL troops, right-wingers exchange fire in S. Lebanon

SIDON, Lebanon, Jan. 17 (R)—French troops with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) opened fire with automatic weapons at dawn today after being shelled by Israeli-backed right-wing militias in southern Lebanon, residents said.

The incident happened in the hilltop village of Yater, six kms north of the Israeli border, where 130 French troops are manning the southern most UNIFIL garrison.

French officials said the rightists fired three shells after French troops turned back a rightist patrol.

The officials said there had been no French casualties but local residents said they saw one soldier injured after the shelling.



U.S. Ambassador-at-large Alfred Atherton (right) begins his Mideast mediation effort Wednesday, in a meeting with Israeli legal experts. Atherton described the discussions as "serious". At left, smiling, is Eliahu Ben-Elisar, Director General of the Prime Minister's office. (AP wirephoto)

Less than 24 hours after Shah's departure Iran slides into confusion, heavy army shooting in Ahvaz

TEHRAN, Jan. 17 (R)—Less than 24 hours after the Shah left the country, Iran's delicate political balance slid into confusion today amid reports of dozens of deaths in heavy army shooting in a big provincial city.

Local press reports said hundreds of soldiers shouting "Javid Shah" (long live the Shah) ran wildly through the southern oil city of Ahvaz, mowing down dozens of people and spraying buildings with bullets.

"Witnesses said tens of people were killed and wounded," the newspaper Kayhan reported. British and American embassy officials said they had also received reports of serious trouble in Ahvaz.

There was no confirmation of any exact death toll or exactly what happened in the first outbreak of major violence since the Shah fled to Egypt yesterday for an extended political holiday to dampen opposition to his rule.

A major of the Shah's elite Imperial Guard told western reporters today he expected the Shah to return within a few months.

And a palace adviser, Hossein Amir Sadeghi, said: "If anyone tampers with the constitution, they'll get 700,000 wild ponies (soldiers) on their backsides...it could be the biggest international disaster since World War II."

A prominent opposition leader, Dr. Karim Sanjabi, called for a continued struggle until the monarchy was overthrown and urged people to protect public property and installations for future use by an elected government rather than "the illegal government appointed by the Shah."

In the town of Arak, 280 km south west of Tehran, at least two people were killed and 22 injured when security forces fired on demonstrators trying to pull down a statue of the Shah, the newspaper said.

New Prime Minister Shapour Bakhtiar's efforts to achieve a moderate political solution which would allow the Shah to return appeared to suffer a serious blow today when Justice Minister Yahya Sadiq-Vaziri announced he

wanted to resign.

In a letter published in local newspapers Mr. Sadiq-Vaziri said his ministry was too cumbersome to deal swiftly with detained former officials who had squandered public money and trampled on people's rights.

TEHRAN, Jan. 17 (R)—Food, clothing, blankets, tents and beaters were flown to a major earthquake area in northeast Iran today where 1,000 people are feared to have died.

The earthquake—the second major one in the province of Khorasan in four months—destroyed three villages and local press reports said the death toll may reach 1,000.

Two helicopters and three giant C-130 Hercules transport planes have been used today to fly relief supplies from Tehran to the disaster zone.

In another indication of uncertainty and change following the Shah's departure, the official radio announced that seven Iranian ambassadors—to Britain, the United Nations, Brazil, France, India, Syria and Italy—had been sacked.

Iran's most prominent overseas envoy, Ardeshir Zabeti, had resigned his post as ambassador to Washington, the radio said.

Meanwhile, the Shah and Empress Farah went on a Nile cruise with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat today on the first full day of an enforced holiday from which they may never return.

Mr. Sadat, who considers the Shah a personal friend as well as an ally and financial supporter, gave him a warm welcome on his arrival.

However the semi-official Cairo newspaper Al-Ahram quoted a senior Egyptian diplomat as saying the warm welcome given to the Shah "does not mean that Egypt supports one side or the other in the Iranian internal

Papal envoy succeeded in persuading both sides to sign an agreement on Jan. 8 asking Pope John Paul II to mediate, and undertaking not to use force to settle the dispute.

Ould Salek reshuffles Mauritania's cabinet

NOUAKCHOTT, Jan. 17 (R)—Mauritania's military leader Lieutenant-Colonel Moustapha Ould Mohamed Salek, yesterday reshuffled his government. Hard-line Foreign Minister Chelkha Ould Mohamed Lakhadef was replaced by a former ambassador to Brussels, Ahmed Ould Abdellah. Mr. Lakhadef became a minister of state at the presidency, the announcement said. Mauritania is currently holding talks with the Algerian-backed Polisario Front to end a three-year-old guerrilla war in the former Spanish Sahara ceded to Morocco and Mauritania.

U.S., Soviet teams speed up SALT talks

GENEVA, Jan. 17 (R)—United States and Soviet nuclear arms negotiators today speeded the pace of their talks here on a new Strategic Arms Limitation (SALT) agreement. The two sides met for two hours in their latest session and scheduled another round for Friday, conference sources said. The negotiators have lately been meeting once a week, but there was no explanation for the decision to hold two sessions so close together.

Communists arrested in Egypt

CAIRO, Jan. 17 (R)—Egyptian police have arrested 38 people suspected of being members of an underground communist organization, Interior Ministry sources said today. They said the arrests were made in Sharqiya Province, east of Cairo, yesterday. The sources said the 38 had distributed leaflets hostile to the government of President Anwar Sadat. The leaflets also condemned Camp David agreements which led to bilateral peace talks between Egypt and Israel.

The Patriotic Front, a group of the transitional government, has pledged to support the April poll. Mr. Smith's speech was many months ago, and many members were unconvinced by the approach of the election. The most told to the community would vote in a referendum.

Arafat calls for unity to resist Camp David

ASCUS, Jan. 17 (R)—Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat today called for the continuation of the war to be intensified and urged greater Arab-Israeli unity to resist the Camp David peace talks.

Arafat was presenting a political programme to the National Council, the Palestinian parliament, in a meeting in Damascus today.

He said the PLO would profit from an emerging alliance with Jordan, and voiced the hope that it would lead to restoring Palestinian presence in that country.

Mr. Kaddoumi also welcomed the departure abroad of the Shah of Iran and called for close ties with Ayatollah Khomeini, the Shah's main religious opponent who has already adopted an anti-Israeli stance.

He was sceptical about a statement by Andrew Young, the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, that American diplomacy was hampered by a lack of effective relations with Palestinians.

Mr. Kaddoumi said "they are flirting with us today, but this does not alter their hostile attitude."

The council meeting adjourned in the afternoon and was due to discuss a financial report tonight.

Palestinian officials said debates on future strategy would begin tomorrow, the fourth day of the conference.

Meanwhile, Syria and Iraq have agreed to unify their foreign policies and to set up a joint bureau for national security, an official announcement said today.

It said the accords were reached during three days of talks in Damascus between the foreign and defence ministers of the two countries.

The high-powered Iraqi delegation arrived following reports by Arab diplomatic sources in Damascus that the long-time rivals were planning to merge into a single state.

Syrian officials have made no comment on the reports, but official sources said the latest accords were an important step towards unifying the two countries.

The statement today said Syrian and Iraqi ambassadors abroad would be instructed to coordinate their activities, while the new bureau would supervise security in the two states.

The surprise rapprochement was born last October out of their common opposition to Egyptian-Israeli peace moves, and the two sides have since agreed to set up a joint military command and to normalise political and economic relations.

Portugal's communists urge early elections

LISBON, Jan. 17 (R)—The Portuguese Communist Party, warning of the medium-term danger of a return to right-wing dictatorship, yesterday urged early elections as the best solution to the country's problems. In a 7,000-word communique issued at the 12th meeting of the party's Central Committee under Secretary-General Alvaro Cunhal, the communists called on President Antonio Ramalho Eanes to dissolve Parliament and set new elections within the constitutional limit of 90 days. The communique said the seven-year-old non-party government of Professor Carlos Mota Pinto did not meet the criteria favoured by Eanes because it lacked a parliamentary majority and the consent of ministers authorised by the parliamentary parties.

Continues to pull troops from Chilean border

SAN CARLOS, Jan. 17 (R)—Argentina will start pulling back from the Chilean frontier after the Pope agrees to a cease-fire in a territorial dispute which almost caused war last week, military sources said last night. The dispute is over three islands at the southern tip of the Americas, and associated territorial rights. Both countries mobilised troops and warships to the area after talks aimed at a peaceful settlement broke down. A

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King Hussein receives

Canadian delegation

AMMAN, Jan. 17 (JNA)—His Majesty King Hussein received at the Royal Hashemite Court this evening the Canadian parliamentary delegation headed by Mr. Joe Clark, leader of the Progressive Conservative Party.

During the meeting King Hussein reviewed the current situation in the Middle East and explained Jordan's attitude towards recent developments in the Arab World. He also explained basic requirements for a just and permanent peace in the area. The interview was attended by President of the National Consultative Council Ahmad Al Lawzi, Chief of the Royal Hashemite Court Abdul Hamid Sharaf, Court Minister Amer Khammash and Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid.

At the same time Her Majesty Queen Noor received wives of the Canadian parliamentary delegation at the Hashimiyah Palace this evening.

Earlier today, Mr. Clark and his accompanying delegation toured a number of agricultural projects in the Jordan Valley and were briefed on irrigation and housing schemes undertaken by the Jordan Valley Authority. The Canadian team's two-day visit to Jordan is part of a tour that has taken them to Japan, India, and Israel.

U.S. trade mission ends fact-finding talks here

By a Jordan Times staff reporter

AMMAN, Jan. 17 — A nine-man U.S. Water Resources Trade Mission ended a four-day visit to Jordan today during which members held fact-finding talks with government and private sector interests.

"Our visit was mainly for information gathering," Mr. William S. Gaines, Director of the mission, said in a press conference. Most of the delegates represent water resource related industries in the U.S. interested in developing contacts in Jordan for future business relations.

Mr. Robert Ball, General Sales Manager for Irrigation and Industrial Development Corp., noted that competition for irrigation products in Jordan is high and it may take some time to develop sales. Delegates, concerned with desalination units felt Jordan, though not a market yet, could be in the next few years especially if water exploration efforts yield brackish water.

Along a line related to water conservation, Mr. Samuel J. Starker, Director of Midwest Chemical Projects for Sanders and Thomas Inc., saw potential in Jordan for soft industries which require no water, such as electronics manufacturing plants. The delegation highly praised Jordan's water efficiency in agriculture and advanced techniques in use.

The delegates met earlier today with Dr. Albert Butros, President of the Royal Scientific Society; Dr. Hanna Odeh, President of the National Planning Council; and Mr. Mohammad Dabbas, Minister of Finance. Yesterday members toured the Jordan Valley and were briefed on the Jordan Valley Authority's irrigation projects.

The delegates, ending a three-nation tour which included Oman, the UAE and Jordan, felt the visit would necessitate further trips.

Cabinet gives NCC reasons for proposed tax increase

AMMAN, Jan. 17 (J.T.)—The Cabinet has referred to the National Consultative Council the government's justifications for the draft law which will increase tax levies in support of Jordan's two universities.

The NCC adjourned debate of the draft law during its session on Monday to await the government's justifications for such an increase in taxes.

The law was proposed by the government to provide financial support for the universities through stepping up the percentage fees on profits made by public and private corporation shareholders.

Jordan to purchase U.S. wheat with \$5.4 m. loan

AMMAN, Jan. 17 (J.T.)—The United States is to grant Jordan a \$5.4 million loan to finance its purchase of 40 thousand metric tons of U.S. wheat, according to an agreement signed here today.

The loan is to be repaid over a 21-year period at an interest rate of below three per cent.

Minister of Supply Marwan Al Qasbi signed for the government and U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Nicholas Velozes signed for the United States.

The Ministry of Supply will sell the purchased wheat to local flour mills and Jordanian consumers, sources at the ministry said. The government will then use the money to finance a number of agricultural schemes and projects included in the five-year development plan.

NOTEBOOK

What to believe?

By Rami G. Khouri

It is ironic that as the Shah of Iran leaves the Middle East for the United States this week, the United States' special Middle East envoy, Mr. Alfred Atherton flies into the area to try and salvage the stalled negotiations between Israel and Egypt. The irony is there because the big loser in the Iranian mess is, without doubt, the credibility of the United States, the same credibility upon which Mr. Atherton now limps into the region, battered and without many tricks left in his magic bag.

The departure of the Shah will complicate the American-orchestrated Mideast peace-making attempt beyond recognition because it will only maximise and dramatise the fundamental imbalance by which the American mediating role is made not only incongruous, but also ineffective, and unworkable. This imbalance derives from the equally fundamental American position opposing all legitimate Palestinian rights, which will now be heightened with the activation of those clauses in the Sinai II agreement by which the United States is legally and morally committed to supply Israel with all its oil requirements.

In other words, any remaining American hopes of being taken seriously as an honest broker in the Middle East will have been largely whisked away from the region in the jetstream of the Shah's America-bound airplane. It is already difficult enough to reason with the Americans when they tell us that they are trying to work out a fair peace agreement, while it is their total economic and military support for Israel that allows Israel to flaunt its made-in-USA bravado and arrogance in the face of the rest of the world's agreement on the basis of a fair and reasonable peace — namely an Israeli withdrawal from the 1967 occupied areas and the establishment of a Palestinian state, in return for Arab recognition of Israel. But now it becomes virtually impossible to sit through more than fifteen minutes of America's song-and-dance routine about its role as a fair mediator and an honest broker while it is organically linked, through its petroleum commitments, to the perpetuation of an expansionist Israeli state.

It seems to me, and to most Arabs I'd guess, that the role of an honest broker and the role of Israel's private oil company are incompatible, if not embarrassingly contradictory.

I am forgetting, for the moment, the debate about whether the Shah was an appropriate ally for the United States. The controversy over his legitimacy is something I leave for the Iranians themselves to discuss, if only out of the dictates of courtesy. It is, in fact, none of our business.

What is our business, however—and this is magnified by the visit this week of Mr. Atherton and his flying political ambulance service—is the degree to which one can believe whatever one hears from the United States government and president. The Shah himself—not the Platonic concept of an Iranian nation, but the Shah personally—was designated as a vital and compelling ally of the United States during the past two decades. It would be

difficult to find a more clear and explicit example of whom the United States pledged to protect and preserve end of time than the Shah of Iran. He personally represented the zenith of American post-WWII policy of supporting anti-communist regimes. And now, as fast as he made airplane can fly, he is gone.

The great lesson from all this, one can argue, is that the United States is going to give you its total support, and also gives you a fast airplane on which to make a speeded be. The lesson was also learned a few years ago when helicopters and offshore battleships facilitated fleeing for one's life.

So what do we conclude from the events of the past? First, keep your stocks of airplane fuel high at all times. Second, maintain a large degree of scepticism in the world power west of Europe but east of Japan tell other what you are vital to its concept of a free nations fired by humanity's collective drive to spread and liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Third, activate a large reserve of dubiousness which flies in and out of the Middle East waving the banner of love and self-governing councils while simultaneously directing American oil tankers to supply Israel with requires to keep the holy land a region where the fruits and love and self-governing councils are mocked and thrown in the garbage bin of history, try-but-not-enough's.

Fourth, if you happen to be the president of Egypt, counting on more American aid money than you can use, your people about because your telephone system is down and you expect this bountiful display of Yankee might drop out of the sky as a byproduct of the process of Palestinians' legitimate rights, then you should discuss with friends who pass through on speedy journeys from this is all rather unpleasant, I know, and perhaps it is the eyes of little children and frail people. But is it the of the world we live in. It makes us further sad to see added isolation of Israel and the United States' partnership of petroleum will only stiffen Israel's resolve to make peace with the Palestinians because the loss of makes Israel feel yet more alone in the world, and the more determined to depend on the "only thing" known—the power of its own guns. Whom else can depend on, the United States?

Until the United States and Israel become more living in peace and fairness with the reality of a Palestinian there will be no further bloodshed in the holy land. Less so we draw from the intellectual acrobatics of American policy in the Middle East for the past 20 years thought, but true. Ask the Shah.

Arab Wings negotiates further Arab participation

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, Jan. 17 — The \$8 million loan secured by Arab Wings this week from a consortium of Arab banks comes while the company is on the verge of increasing operations significantly and living up to its name by truly becoming a pan-Arab-owned company. The loan will help finance the purchase of a Sabreliner 75A aircraft, which will bring the Arab Wings fleet to two Sabreliners and four smaller Learjets.

Discussions are still being held with the governments of Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to share in the capital of Arab Wings, according to the head of the company, Mr. Akel Biliagi.

The authorised and paid-up capital of Arab Wings is JD 2.2 million, which is held entirely by the Jordanian government, except for 12 per cent held by the government of Oman.

The aim now is to raise the capital to JD 3.745 million and share it equally with the five other Arab states. This would involve a significant expansion of Arab Wings' fleet and basing more of its planes at airports throughout the Gulf states, according to Arab Wings Vice President for Finance and Administration Anes Rabie. It is anticipated that this could be concluded within the coming year.

Arab Wings became totally independent from Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, in July 1977, and has since operated as a self-sufficient company.

Mr. Biliagi said that revenues last year were around the \$3 million mark, but it was still too early to calculate net profit or loss. The company registered a net profit of JD 12,000 in 1977, after three years of operations.

One of the company's successful new ventures, he said, has been the Arab Wings Flying Ambulance, which has made 12 emergency evacuation flights in the Middle East during the past two months, in cooperation with the medical emergency service firm SOS International.

The loan to Arab Wings is managed by the Cairo-based Arab African Bank, and is for eight years. It is provided by seven Arab banks.

Marriott hotel loan

In a related development, the terms of another loan to a Jordanian company—also managed by the Arab African Bank—have now been revealed. This is the \$10 million loan signed here Tuesday for the Amman-based Arab International Hotels Company, which is building the 330-room hotel in Shmeisani that is being designed and will be managed by the American Marriott hotel company.

Mr. Hami Muasher, Deputy General Manager of the Arab International Hotels Company, told the Jordan Times that the loan is for nine years and is guaranteed by the government of Jordan. Its interest rate for the first four years is seven-eighths of a per cent over the London inter-bank offered rate (Libor), and for the last five years it is one per cent over Libor.

It is provided by a syndicate of 23 banks from North America, Europe, the Arab World and Japan.

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ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL RA'I Wednesday says Israel explained its aggressive policy in practical terms when it raided south Lebanon yesterday and demolished a civilian house. The attack was mounted when Israel was about to receive the U.S. special envoy Alfred Atherton and an accompanying delegation and while Israel, at the same time, was planting new Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab land.

With this "very understood" language Israel wants to formulate Clauses 4 and 6 of the Blair House treaty with Egypt. Israel wants Egypt to agree on its interpretation of aggression. For instance, the Israeli sea and land raid on Lebanese territory is not considered, by Israel's tenet, an aggressive assault; and it is supposed that Cairo would concede such an explanation, Al Ra'i writes.

AL DUSTOUR follows up His Majesty King Hussein's "intensified" discussions with President Hafez Al Assad of Syria in Damascus yesterday that "represent a living picture of the model and brotherly relations between the two countries, characterised by consultation, coordination and objective study of the Arab cause and other issues of mutual concern."

Evidently, the newspaper says, the outcome of these talks will be foremost of topics to be discussed by President Assad and President Ahmad Hassan Al Bakr of Iraq at their scheduled meeting in Damascus on Jan. 25.

WHAT'S GOING ON

Painting Exhibit

The exhibition of paintings by Egyptian artist Ahmad Chiha is on display at the Art Gallery of the Ministry of Culture and Youth. Open from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Last day today.

Children's Song Festival

The Friends of Children Club presents a children's song festival at the Palace of Culture at 4:00 p.m. The songs are in Arabic but should be enjoyed by all children.

Children's Film

The Goethe Institute presents a children's film in German entitled "Mijnheer Hat Lauter Toechter" by Vilker Vogeler. The film starts at 4:30 p.m.

Phosphate exports 2 million tons

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, Jan. 17 — Jordan exported more than two million tons of raw phosphate for the first time in its history last year. Total exports in 1978 amounted to 2,160,000 tons. Jordan Phosphate Mines Company Secretary General Tahseen Khreis told the Jordan Times here today. (It was erroneously reported in yesterday's Jordan Times, because of a mechanical transmission error, that total sales were nine million tons.)

Sales of 2.16 million tons last year compare to the 1977 figure of 1.8 million, while last year's total production figure of 2.25 million tons is also well up on

the previous year's total of 1.77 million tons.

Revenues from 1978 phosphate exports are not yet calculated, Mr. Khreis said. It is likely, however, that total revenues will be only slightly higher than the average of about JD 20 million annually of the past three years, representing the stabilisation of the international price of raw phosphate at around the \$33 per ton level after its sharp rise in 1974, when it skyrocketed from \$14 to over \$50 per ton.

This means that phosphates are still the single biggest item in Jordan's exports, accounting for about one-third of total export revenues.

R.G.K.

NOTICE

To Sri Lankans G.A.K. Fernando, S.K. Bulegoda and D.B. Mathupala: You are requested to return to work in Aqaba within three days of this notice, otherwise your service agreement will be considered terminated and we no longer accept responsibility for you.

TARMAC SHAHINE

JOINT VENTURE - AQABA.

Coming & Go

Minister of Education arrives in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, Jan. 17 (JNA)—Minister of Education Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali arrived here today at the head of a delegation representing the United Nations University on a several-day visit to Iraq. Dr. Al Majali said the visit comes within a tour of a number of Arab countries to explain the idea, reality and aims of the university. He said the Tokyo-based university started its duties five years ago in the field of applied scientific research and world problems, particularly hunger, development of mankind, and exemplary use of natural resources.

Australian enters to job

AMMAN, Jan. 17 (JNA)—The "Rosewood" College in South Australia left for Jordan today at the head of a delegation to Jordan. Dr. Al Majali said the visit comes within a tour of a number of Arab countries to explain the idea, reality and aims of the university. He said the Tokyo-based university started its duties five years ago in the field of applied scientific research and world problems, particularly hunger, development of mankind, and exemplary use of natural resources.

LOCAL

EXCHANGE

RATES

U.S. dollar	294.00/296.00
U.K. sterling	589.00/593.00
West German mark	159.30/160.30
Swiss franc	175.60/176.70
French franc	69.20/69.60
Italian lire (for every 100)	35.00/35.20
Japanese yen (for every 100)	149.50/150.40
Dutch guilder	147.70/148.60
Belgian franc (for every 100)	100.90/101.50
Swedish crown	67.50/67.90

Embezzlement

AMMAN, Jan. 17 (JNA)—Prime minister, military governor endorsed a bill to sentence of five years to Khalaf Jamil Fawzi Omar Wardana, 31,711 on each found guilty of embezzlement. The military further approved a bill to sentence of labour for two years to Ali Al Ma'ayeh, 41, for embezzlement.

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Jordan Today: The Jordan Times interview

TAYSEER ABDEL JABER:

Secretary General of the
National Planning Council

Interviewed by Rami G. Khouri

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first in a series of in-depth interviews with leading Jordanian personalities, from the public and private sectors, in which they assess the progress of the country at this stage of its social and economic development.

Q: In view of the general aims of the five-year social and economic development plan, how would you assess the country's performance as we enter the fourth year of the plan?

A: Let me first differentiate between two levels of development: one at the overall macro level and the second at the sectoral level. At the overall level, if we look at the performance of the national income accounts, I believe that we have achieved very satisfactory results. If you look at the growth in GNP (national product), you'll see that we have achieved an annual growth rate of ten per cent in real terms during the last three years. Of course, this does not mean that this rate has been achieved every year. There was a big jump in 1976 which was due to developments in the first three years of the plan. There was a slowdown in 1977, and then we returned to the growth rate of ten per cent in 1978.

Q: Is this an average growth rate of ten per cent in real terms?

A: Yes, this is in real terms. We have excluded the impact of inflation. Otherwise, if you take current prices, you would find a very large expansion in the economy, but for us to assess the performance of the economy we have to deflate the expansion by the kind of an index, either a cost of living or price index, to take away the effect of inflation. So in terms of overall growth rate, we have been very close to the plan target, a growth rate of ten per cent annually, which is itself a very ambitious rate of growth.

Q: You look at another figure, such as investments, or how much have been spent on projects outlined in the plan, you will find we have been again very close to the plan targets during the last three years, and as a percentage of GNP we have increased investment from 22 per cent before the plan to about 25 per cent of our GNP being invested, which is a very high rate, and it includes both the private and public sectors. We have been noticing an increase in the government's share in domestic revenues. During the first three years of the plan, we have been generating a greater percentage of our recurrent expenditures from domestic sources, which is one of the main aims of the plan, to reach some sort of self-sufficiency in recurrent expenditures, but not the development expenditures.

Q: You have specific figures on this percentage?

A: A percentage of domestic revenues that are covering recurrent expenditures is now roughly 80 per cent. The main problem, in terms of plan targets that we have not been able to achieve is the trade balance, or the difference between our exports and our commodity imports, which has been very much during the plan period, and even before the three-year plan. But I think we should not only concentrate on the trade balance, we should concentrate instead on the balance in general; in which we also take into consideration revenues that Jordan receives from other sources, such as remittances from Jordanian workers abroad, and where the major developments have taken place during the plan. Our remittances from workers abroad come to at least \$1 billion a year, and the tourism income also comes to about \$1 billion annually, and these figures should be taken into account for the next plan period. I believe the next plan should concentrate more on the trade balance and concentrate more on the balance in general, which takes into account both trade and other sources.

Q: If we look into whole balance of payments account, it has been very well, as we have been achieving surpluses over the last few years. This is also to be considered a major success for Jordan, which is reflected in a strong reserve position, and accordingly in the strength of the dinar.

Q: Jordan historically has never been a great trading nation in the export of locally produced goods. Is it realistic to expect to be able to reduce the trade gap by an increase in exports?

A: In the completion of many of the projects in the current plan, we believe that in the early 1980s we will witness a large increase in our exports. The present plan aims to increase our productive capacity and our export capacity in areas such as phosphates, chemical fertilisers and cement. But while exports have been increasing, our imports have been increasing much faster rate, and we have had to use our remittances from services to cover the gap between imports and exports.

Q: While exports may increase in the next five years, the trend shows that imports will also keep increasing at a fast pace.

A: Imports will increase, but the rate of increase of imports will be lower than the rate of increase of exports. At the same time, we are developing import-substitution industries, which the sector is undertaking, and I believe the rate of increase of imports will gradually decline.

Q: One criterion of the plan is the response of the private sector which has even exceeded the plan's projections in terms of growth in various sectors, for example in housing, tourism, banking, institutions, commerce, industry and transport. In general, I would say the assessment of the plan has to be favourable.

Q: Is it realistic to expect all the projects in the plan to be completed on time?

A: In general, I would say we are doing very well on the individual level, though in many cases the time lag before implementation would have been shortened, though this lag has usually been longer time needed to complete feasibility studies and design work, and to arrange package financing for major projects.

Q: In view of the general aims of the five-year social and economic development plan, how would you assess the country's performance as we enter the fourth year of the plan?

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Striking a balance between future development and present gains



Dr. Tayseer Abdel Jaber

As in the three-year development plan--and according to the experience of development planning in all countries--we have to appreciate that development planning is a continuous process. You cannot simply start at a certain date and say all these projects will start together and all will finish at a given date. Some projects will be carried over into the next development plan, just as this plan also contains some of the projects that were started in the three-year plan. It's a natural thing. The potash project, for example, will continue until 1982 or 1983, and the Jordan Valley development scheme will continue in its phase II until 1983 or 1984.

Q: To achieve a high growth rate as Jordan is doing, it seems to me that a certain price has to be paid, and it looks as if the price being paid has been in terms of a higher inflation rate.

A: As a relatively high importer, Jordan is affected to a great extent by worldwide inflation. Some calculations show that up to two-thirds of inflation in Jordan is due to imported inflation, so our own inflationary trend is very much tied up with the worldwide inflationary trend. In 1975, we had an inflation rate of about 25 per cent, in 1976 about 11, in 1977 about 14 per cent, and for 1978 we expect inflation to range around 7-8 per cent. So the trend has been towards slowing down the inflation rate, and a 7-8 per cent inflation rate is expected, given the expansion of the economy.

Q: Do you expect the factors that have contributed to slowing down the inflation rate to continue throughout 1979 and 1980?

A: There was a slowdown in the worldwide inflationary rate in 1978, and there has been a deliberate policy on the part of the Jordanian government to subsidise and stabilise the prices of certain commodities, such as meat and bread. The government has also tried to be careful about the impact of its fiscal and monetary policies in inflation, and I believe these basic forces, among others, will continue to give us an inflation rate that is acceptable, in view of the development process.

Q: Does it worry you that so much private money is going to pay for the importation of expensive consumer goods, such as television sets or cars?

A: If you look at the breakdown of our import figures, you'll notice that the percentage of consumer goods is going down, and the percentage of capital goods, such as machinery and equipment and raw materials, has been going up. This is a satisfactory trend, because it means the impact of our development plan has been reflected in the structure of our imports.

Q: So the relative ratio of consumer goods in the total import figure is moving in the right direction?

A: The philosophy of economic development planning in Jordan has been towards postponing all the fruits of development for future generations. We would like to have a balance between how much we mobilise for development, and how much we have reflected on the people of this generation in terms of development. This is very important. Some countries don't strive for this balance, but instead they emphasise the welfare of future generations, and they expect a lot of suffering on the part of the present generation, which is really working and toiling for development. I think the economic policy here has been to strike the balance between future development and the benefits of that effort for people living now.

Q: One of the striking factors about the Jordanian economy is the great degree of freedom enjoyed by private sector companies, with little government regulation.

A: Well, in fact this has been one of the major bases of our economic policy in Jordan. Indeed, the three-year development plan expected 45 per cent of all investments to come from the private sector, and the current five-year plan expects 50 per cent to come from the private sector. We have had, all the way through, a deliberate policy of promoting private investment in Jordan. However, there is always a need for a framework of regulatory measures to determine where to encourage, what to encourage, how to encourage and to what extent you want to encourage. Some people, for example, would like to make more money out of real estate speculation, instead of by some of the more difficult ways, such as investing in industry. So the government will always maintain a sort of framework of policies to guide and encourage private sector investments.

Q: Do you see any areas where the private sector has perhaps abused its freedom, and acted in a manner that is counter-productive to the overall socio-economic development plans of the country? For example, is it appropriate for some people to make money building car washes while other people in a different part of Amman do not have regular water supplies?

A: Well, to take this specific example, you have to keep in mind that a private investor is going to put his money where he sees a demand for a specific service. The private sector is free to assess the risks it is taking in making certain investments. But in some cases, I think the structure of private industry needs to be reconsidered, keeping in mind the overall picture of the country's development.

social development projects, to bring more balance between the development of the country's various regions.

We'll also highlight the importance of population and manpower planning. Manpower has accounted for the success of the Jordanian economy, and still accounts for the major foreign exchange earnings of the economy.

More sophistication in our technology should also be adopted, with the increased application of science and technology in how we undertake projects. In line with manpower planning, emphasis will be put on integrating more and more of our women into the labour force, and therefore a larger percentage of women workers should be expected and encouraged. We have already seen movement in this area. While only about four per cent of the labour force was made up of women four years ago, today women make up about 12 per cent of the labour force.

I also look for more coordination throughout the economy, particularly in such areas as agriculture.

Q: Do you feel there is a need to review the government's attitude towards encouraging industrialisation of the economy?

A: I believe that with the forthcoming development plan there will be a need for reconsidering the industrial policy of Jordan. This reconsideration should not only include the location of industries, but should also be extended to include what types of industries should be established in Jordan, and coordination and integration of various industries in the country, in terms of their inputs and outputs. The extent of the effectiveness of the government's industrial incentives cooperation with neighbouring Arab countries, and the role of the industrial estates being established are all factors that will end up in some kind of definite industrial policy in Jordan.

Q: What is the mechanism by which you will come up with the next five-year plan?

A: We believe that plan formulation is a continuous process. Most of the studies that we are now financing and undertaking will bring to the surface projects which will be elements in the next five-year plan. For example, we have a road masterplan, a fundamental plan for telecommunications, a long-term plan for education, and now we are working on a national health plan.

In addition to these sectoral studies, we will start on the overall framework of the plan. The formal step towards plan preparation will be started sometime this year, in 1979, by formulating, as usual, a higher committee for planning and entrusting this committee with the responsibility for coming up with the plan. Planning in Jordan has now become institutionalised, as this will not be the first plan we've tried.

Q: What about the National Planning Council itself? Have you seen any need to change its powers or responsibilities?

A: There has been a need to revitalise and reorganise the National Planning Council, and there have been studies to this end. There is a need to activate various aspects included in the planning law. For example, there is a need for by-laws in terms of organisational classification inside the National Planning Council. There is a need towards activating the board of directors of the council. I believe there is also a need to put more emphasis on the follow-up of the plans. There are also ideas about bringing into the council functions that were not previously attached to it, for example in terms of science and technology.

Q: But the basic role of the NPC has been found to be a valid one in Jordan?

A: Yes, basically the NPC has proved to be very helpful as a coordinating body for the detailed preparation and formulation of the plan, and it has been very successful having one authority responsible for raising foreign financing for various projects and for concluding technical and economic assistance agreements, and for the follow-up and implementation of the plan. These functions have proved very crucial, and I believe they should be maintained as the main responsibility of the NPC.

I think I need to emphasise the policy side of planning. We don't have to be carried away with individual projects. I think there is a need to emphasise policy and coordination between various sectors, which would be reflected in higher efficiency in the economy as a whole.

Development information is also worth stressing. It shouldn't be for making propaganda, but rather getting to the people a correct picture of what we are doing and what we are planning to do for the national economy in the future.

Q: How much have you suffered from the problem of having government wages that are too low to attract highly specialised technical people into the National Planning Council?

A: It is being felt and we are always reminded that there is a problem, especially in trying to attract trained newcomers. You may be able to retain someone already here in Jordan, but it is very hard to attract someone new to Jordan if they have studied abroad, for example. You may keep them for a year or two, but it's much more difficult to retain these people. I hope that with the government move to increase salaries, we will have some kind of added incentive.

AMMAN STOCK EXCHANGE REPORT

NAME OF COMPANY	Par Value	Volume Traded	Last Buying Offer	Last Selling Offer	Closing Price
Jordan Petroleum Co.	JD 5,000	495	6,570	6,600	6,600
Jordao Cement Factories	JD 10,000	3,381	14,150	14,200	14,150
Arab Pharmaceutical Co.	JD 5,000	202	16,800	—	16,900
Jordan-Kuwait Bank	JD 1,000	495	1,770	1,850	1,770
Jordan-Gulf Bank	JD 1,000	1,779	1,040	1,060	1,050
Dar Aldawa Development and Investment Co.	JD 1,000	450	1,800	—	1,800
General Mining Co.	JD 1,000	232	0,920	0,940	0,930
Jordan Electricity Co.	JD 1,000	2,789	1,350	1,370	1,360
Jordan Tobacco And Cigarette Co.	JD 5,000	456	7,750	—	8,000
Industrial, Commercial And Agricultural Co.	JD 1,000	265	2,500	—	2,500
Petra Bank Co.	JD 10,000	1,135	11,320	11,500	11,350
Arab International Hotels Co.	JD 1,000	207	0,740	0,750	0,740
Jordan Worsted Mills Co.	JD 1,000	471	—	—	1,570

Total volume traded, Wednesday, Jan. 17: JD 12,357
Total number of shares traded: JD 5,786

Government Development Bonds	Par Value	Volume traded	Number traded	Year of maturity	Selling price
	JD 10,000	1,010	1000	1980	10,010

Total volume traded: JD 1,010

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TODAY'S WEATHER

Weather will be partly cloudy, with southeasterly moderate winds gradually to southwesterly moderate. In Aqaba Gulf it will be hazy at times with northerly moderate winds and

Overnight minimum	Daytime maximum
4	13
10	20
11	21
5	14

An alternative to conventional play



Donkey games are one of the highlights of the "active playground"

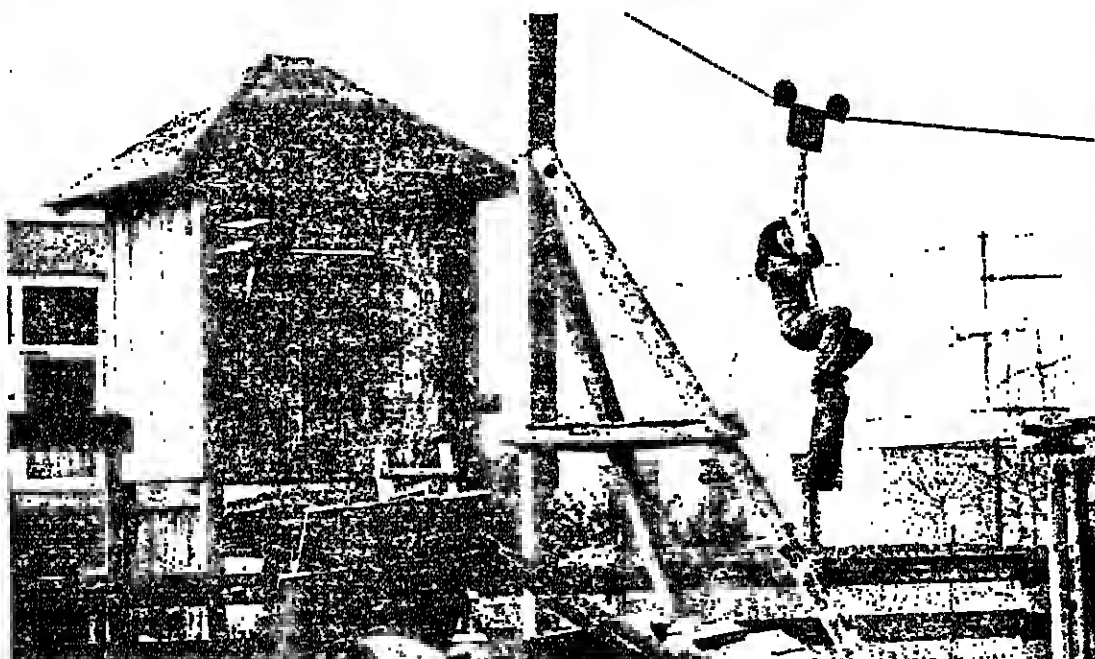
COLOGNE, Germany - "Close the doors please - Victor's coming". These words are to be found on the gate of a fenced-in patch of land in the Lindweiler precinct of Cologne. As one discovers very quickly, Victor is not a dog that bites, but a black male goat. "But we also have a horse and a donkey," explains seven-year-old Elke. She has been coming to the "Robinson" playground in Lindweiler for the past year. Every afternoon between two and four pm, up to 120 children aged between three-and-a-half and 14 years are to be seen playing on this "active" playground. The 4,000 square metres of ground gives plenty of room for "house-building", riding and fire-making. If the weather's bad, the youngsters can go dancing in their own "disco" or make tea in the kitchen. "There's no such thing as boredom here," says Gertrud Grohse, pedagogical chief of the project. And it's easy to see why. Frau Grohse looks after the children with a team of trained helpers, social workers and volunteers. The aim of the project is to produce self-confident, trusting youngsters through a widely varied programme of play and crea-

tiveness and to teach good social behaviour. This is not without its difficulties. If there are quarrels, Frau Grohse has to mediate, or at least to make sure that the beloved four-legged friends don't have to suffer. A full-time carpenter is on hand to do odd jobs around the playground, such as building a wooden hut. He gives tips to young "constructors" and patiently explains how to handle a saw or how to hang a door. The sponsor of the playground is the Lino Club social centre. It was the result, in 1962/63, of one of the very first citizens' campaigns. At the time, the Lino Club limited itself to work in an "open-door" house. But the social problems of Lindweiler - once the site of a hostel for the homeless - demanded more amenities. The Lino Club came into being with the financial backing of the city, the regional government and the church. Today, it is a well established day-nursery with two therapeutic-pedagogic facilities. The centre's programme was rounded off with a meeting-place for the elderly and Cologne's first "active" playground, opened in 1972. A Federal Government statement as recently as 1975 said that the Federal Republic of Ger-

many still lacked up to 100,000 playgrounds. This shortage hits particularly hard at children in big towns and the densely populated regions. Play areas, parks and woodlands are not on the increase in our towns and cities - but road traffic, noise and unfavourable living conditions are. The satellite towns - known here as "concrete deserts" - give children and adolescents little scope to develop in the way they should. Existing public playgrounds, maintained by local authorities or housing concerns, are not enough. And they don't offer much in the way of amenities - a sandbox for the tiny tots, a climbing scaffold and perhaps even a "chute for the others. Ball games and walking on the grass are forbidden - just as games with fire because of the absence of supervision. "Active" playgrounds, now to be found almost everywhere in the Federal Republic of Germany, can help to close a loophole in the recreation sector. This type of supervised playground originated in Sweden and Great Britain. In the Federal Republic of Germany, they resulted to some extent from the controversy over anti-authoritarian education towards

the end of the 1960s. Socially active parents, teachers and students tried to create alternatives on their own initiative. The main problem was, and still is, money, because an "active" playground costs between DM100,000 and DM200,000 a year to maintain. Personnel costs swallow up the lion's share. The pioneers of the new "playground movement" haven't always succeeded in convincing communal authorities and thus securing long-term grants. But without money from public institutions or other bodies and institutions, continuous pedagogic work in this field cannot be guaranteed. This spells an early end for many "active" playgrounds.

Its social centre is there for everyone; the youngsters have their play area, the adolescents and adults their "open door" and the more elderly there are programme events and courses. Much is done, too, for the handicapped. A communication centre and meeting place which enjoys the full backing and recognition of the authorities, the church and those using it - this is an exemplary model of meaningful community work which ought to be copied. (INP)



Tightrope acrobatics are popular at the Lino Club.

Mirror, mirror on the wall, who's the nimblest of them all?

MOSCOW - For three days the Moscow Central Telegraph Club was decorated with flags of eight socialist countries and filled with multi-language talk. The Club was hosting the first international telegraphists' contest sponsored by the trade union of communication service workers and by the All-Union Trades Union Council. Over 20 of

the best telegraphers from Bulgaria, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, Czechoslovakia and the USSR have met to share experience and to demonstrate their skill in telegraph technique. The guests got acquainted with the work of the Central Telegraph of Moscow, visited its shops, discussed the way of further perfecting telegraph communication of their

countries. Then the time for competition came. International panel, consisting of representatives from all eight states switched on clocks and teletypes came to life. It is hard to believe, that such speed of work is within human capabilities. Irina Glebova from the Soviet Union was the first in transmitting a telegram in English, she had made no mistakes. She was also good with

her second assignment and first place. The second place to Kirkor Kodzhayan from Bulgaria, the third - Stan Kukharzhova from Czechoslovakia. For the sum of two stages of the contest, individual and team scoring, the team got the first place, the second and Poland (TASS)



Telegraphists showing their skills during the contest.



A group of participants at the telegraphists' contest.

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'Crucial gathering' for Latin America

Bishops' conference to begin in Mexico

PUEBLA, Mexico, Jan. 17 (AP) — Roman Catholic bishops meet here next week in what is already being talked about as a crucial gathering that will chart the course of the Roman Catholic Church in Latin America.

The meeting could set the church on a collision course with repressive South American Governments or anger those pushing for change in an area where two-thirds of the people live in poverty.

At the least, the conference will provide some fireworks between liberal and conservative elements in the church. Its importance is underlined by the presence of Pope John Paul II, who will open the meeting on his first trip abroad since becoming Pope.

The Jan. 27 - Feb. 12 Third

General Conference of the Latin American Episcopate — popularly called Celam III — will gather 350 Latin American bishops who have prepared for the meeting for over two years.

The theme is "evangelisation in the present and future of Latin America" and lines are already drawn between those who want the church to take a stronger, more involved role in helping the poor and those who feel the

church can best help through traditional methods.

"Celam III, the third meeting of the bishops of Latin America... must make decisions that will have crucial, transcendental importance for the church in Latin America and beyond," wrote theologian Gary MacEoin in the U.S. quarterly "Cross Currents."

"What the bishops decide may not resolve the issues. It will, however, have a major bearing on the

survival of the institutional church, either facilitating or complicating the struggle of the people of Latin America to free themselves from the oppressions under which they have long groaned," Mr. MacEoin added.

The Puebla conference is a direct descendant of what was called Celam II in Medellin, Colombia, in 1968, which emphasised the Vatican II results and put them within a Latin American framework.

"In the documents of Medellin, we find the church, for the first time, taking note of the common people, of the popular classes," J.B. Libanio of Brazil wrote in the magazine "Convergencia."

The documents that came out of the Medellin conference were widely described as liberal, socially aware guides for leading the Roman Catholic Church into closer relationships with the poor.

However, some more conservative theologians think the documents did not reflect calm, mature deliberation and that the bishops who wrote them were influenced by widespread rioting and unrest prevalent throughout the world at the time.

Even more, bishops and priests who tried to put the Medellin concepts into practice were often accused of being communist and ran into conflicts with conservative and military governments.

An estimated 300 million of the world's 900 million Roman Catholics live in Latin America and two-thirds of them live in extreme poverty. Their lives are not ones of free choice but controlled strongly by economic need and in some countries by political oppression as well.

Against this background, those

who see the need for change in Roman Catholic policy feel only the church can help these people get a better share of land, income, dignity and basic human rights.

Organisers of the coming conference wrote a preparatory document that many claim was strongly influenced by conservative, traditional elements. It has been widely criticised as "a subtle rejection of Medellin."

However, lay groups and clergy have met several times in regional sessions and out of these meetings has come a preliminary draft — more liberal and socially inclined that may well become the basic working document at Puebla.

Now, two main schools of thought prevail. One is the conservatives, who range from those who think social work should be combined with a strong evangelical effort to the "ultras" who deny the lack of masses in Latin. The other group is made up of the followers of the so-called "theology of liberation."

The "liberationists" generally argue that the poor and the oppressed can only be liberated through change. How these changes are to be carried out is a matter of some very furious polemics.

Some claim all the social structures should be smashed and rebuilt, even that of the church hierarchy. Others advocate more moderate means of change. And others still want "a marxist interpretation" placed on the church's thinking and its actions.

Some theologians also see the influence of the conference stretching beyond Catholicism in Latin America.

Robert McAfee Brown, a Presbyterian theologian, in the magazine "Christianity and Crisis," recently criticised the efforts to "return the Latin American Catholic Church to pre-Medellin status."

"If Puebla marks a reactionary turn, that development will stimulate similar moves elsewhere in Roman Catholicism and will give impetus to increasingly visible conservative tendencies emerging in Protestantism as well," Mr. Brown wrote.

LONDON MARKET REPORT

The market closed Wednesday generally lower in quiet trading.

Industrial disputes continued to affect sentiment and government proposals for tougher price controls were an additional depressant, dealers added. Government stocks eased up to ½ point and equity leaders fell as much as 10p.

Gold shares firmed with the hullion price but Canadian and U.S. stocks moved lower.

JORDAN TELEVISION

CHANNEL 3	CHANNEL 6
5:30 Uthman	5:30 French programme
5:45 Arabic series	5:45 News in French
6:15 Little House on the Prairie	6:30 News in Hebrew
7:30 Documentary	8:30 Comedy
8:00 News in Arabic	9:30 The prelate's words
8:30 Arabic series	10:00 News in English
9:30 Arabic series	10:15 Movie of the week
10:15 Movie of the week	11:00 News in Arabic

RADIO JORDAN

7:00 Sign on	14:00 News bulletin
7:01 Morning show	14:10 Music
7:30 News Bulletin	14:30 Music
7:40 Morning show	15:03 Spotlight on Antiquity
10:00 News Headlines	15:00 Concert Hour
10:30 Happy Journey	16:03 Easy listening
11:00 Sign off	16:30 Old favourites
12:00 Sign on and News headlines	17:00 Arabian nights
12:01 Radiotheque	17:30 Radiotheque
13:00 News Summary	18:00 News summary
13:01 Radiotheque	18:30 Album review
	19:00 News bulletin
	19:10 News Reports
	19:30 Sign off

BBC RADIO

GMT	13:30 New Ideas
04:00 Newscast	13:40 Clarendon's Concise Dictionary
04:30 British News	14:30 Big Band Sound
04:45 Financial News, Reflections	15:00 Radio Newscast
05:00 News, 24 Hours	15:15 Outlook
05:30 Sarah Ward	16:00 News: Commentary
05:45 World Today	16:15 Themes from Childhood
06:00 Newsweek	16:45 World Today
06:30 Themes from childhood	17:00 News: Book Choice
07:00 News, 24 Hours	17:15 World's News
07:30 Sarah Ward	17:45 Sports Round-up
07:45 The Good and the Stars	18:00 News: News about Britain
08:00 News, Reflections	18:15 Radio Newscast
08:30 News, Press Review	18:30 Annual, Vegetable or Mineral
09:30 Financial News	19:00 Outlook: News Summary
09:40 Look Ahead	19:30 Stock Market
09:45 Alphabet of Medical Curious	19:45 Alphabet of Medical Curious
10:00 A City and its Music	20:00 News, 24 Hours
10:30 Lunch from my grand father's	20:30 A Jolly Good Show
11:00 News, about Britain	21:15 Paperback Programme
11:15 People and Politics	22:00 News, World Today
11:30 Business Matters	22:25 Financial News
12:00 Radio Newscast	22:35 Book, Choice: Reflections
12:15 Top Twenty	23:45 Sports Round-up
12:45 Sports Round-up	23:50 News: Commentary
13:00 News, 24 hours	

VOICE OF AMERICA

GMT	19:00 News Roundup, reports, opinion, analysis
02:30 The Breakfast Show	19:30 VOA Magazine: American, science, culture, letters
06:30 News, pop music, features, interviews, updates	20:00 Special English: news
17:00 News Roundup, reports, opinion, analysis	20:15 Music USA (live)
17:30 Outlook	21:00 VOA World Report
18:00 Special English news, feature "The Making of a Nation"	22:00 News, Correspondents' reports, background features, comments, analysis
18:30 Now Music USA	

AMMAN AIRPORT

ARRIVALS	DEPARTURES
8:30 Baghdad (BAH)	6:05 Damascus, Munich, Frankfurt (LH)
9:30 Cairo (CAI)	7:00 Damascus
9:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ/G)	8:00 Beirut
10:15 Kuwait	8:45 Beirut (MEA)
10:30 Baghdad	9:00 Beirut, Athens, Amsterdam (KLM)
10:45 Damascus	9:55 Cairo (CAI)
10:50 Doha	10:30 Rome
10:50 Beirut	11:00 New York
11:25 Rawalpindi (BA)	11:30 Paris
11:50 Kuwait (KAC)	12:00 Geneva, London
12:00 Riyadh (SOI)	12:25 London (BA)
17:10 Aqaba	12:30 Athens, Madrid
18:00 London, Athens	12:45 Kuwait (KAC)
18:15 Tehran (IRI)	13:00 Cairo
18:30 Cairo	13:45 Riyadh (SOI)
19:00 Beirut (MEA)	15:00 Aqaba
23:50 Cairo (IR)	14:00 Cairo (IR)
	15:30 Kuwait (LH)
	24:45 Tehran (IR)

EMERGENCIES

Director:	Fawzi 1642161
Amman:	Al-Ja'fari 276791
Nazari Al-Sukkar 1446061	Al-Hadithi
Bassam Inshad 1750281	Iradi
Yabdi:	Al-Ghadi
Ahmad Bishara 39251	Zaqar
Zaqar:	Abu Shereh
Hakim Hyman 181440	Tasir
Pharmacist:	Venezia 1455841
Amman:	Al-Najah 250391
Al-Samir 1370551	Hussein Youth City 632731

CULTURAL CENTRES (Amman)

American Centre	Tel. 41520
British Council	36147-8
French Cultural Centre	7009
German Institute	41993
Soviet Cultural Centre	44203
Spanish Cultural Centre	64251
Haya Arts Centre	65195
Hassan Youth City	67181
Y.W.C.A.	41793
Y.W.M.C.A.	64251
Amman Municipal Library	30111
University of Jordan Library	65111
Ordnance Museum	30111
Folklore Museum	36191

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS (Amman)

Ambulance (government)	Tel. 75111
Civil defence rescue	24391-4
Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency)	36391-2
Municipal water service (emergency)	37111-3
Police headquarters	39141
Najdiy rotary patrol rescue police (English spoken) 24 hours a day for emergency	21111, 37777
Airport information (ALIA)	55205
Jordan Television	73111
Radio, English Section	74124
Fire, fire, police	19
Fire headquarters	22090

CULTURAL CENTRES (Damascus)

Al-Hamra Theatre	Tel. 226-448
Al-Sharh Art Gallery	228-327
American Centre	552-362
Arab Cultural Centre	333-727
Bulgarian Cultural Centre	557-901
British Cultural Centre	333-594
Deutsche Demokratische Republik Cultural Centre	333-932
French Cultural Centre	333-604
Kabbani Theatre	222-016
National Museum	114-834
Soviet Cultural Centre	225-630
Spanish Cultural Centre	334-003
Umayyad Art Gallery	334-619
Zabariya Public Library	111-318

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS (Damascus)

Ambulance (government)	Tel. 40
Chamber of Commerce	118-339
Electric Power Co. (repair)	223-887
Fire headquarters	91
Information	9097
Municipal water service	113-300

RECAST FOR THURSDAY, JAN. 18, 1979

Your Daily HOROSCOPE

from the CARROLL RIGTER INSTITUTE

GENERAL TENDENCIES: An effective day for you decide upon a detailed plan of action under which to operate in the future. Later get in touch with those whom you want to be associated with in the future.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Go ahead with your ideas concerning those in the business world and get excellent results. Sidelstep one who is working against you.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Combine your efforts with fellow workers and get much accomplished today. Avoid one who has an eye on your assets.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Set up a social and recreational calendar for far into the future. Strive for increased harmony with family members.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) If you show special thought for those who dwell with you, life at home will become more ideal. Use common sense.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Have those talks and dealings with persons you want to be part of your life in the future. Show that you are a reasonable person.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You can handle practical affairs very well now and gain excellent benefits. Take an interest in civic matters.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You are dynamic today and go after your goals and gain them easily. Make sure you use extreme care in motion today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You can handle private matters very well early in the day, so make personal decisions at that time. Relax at home tonight.

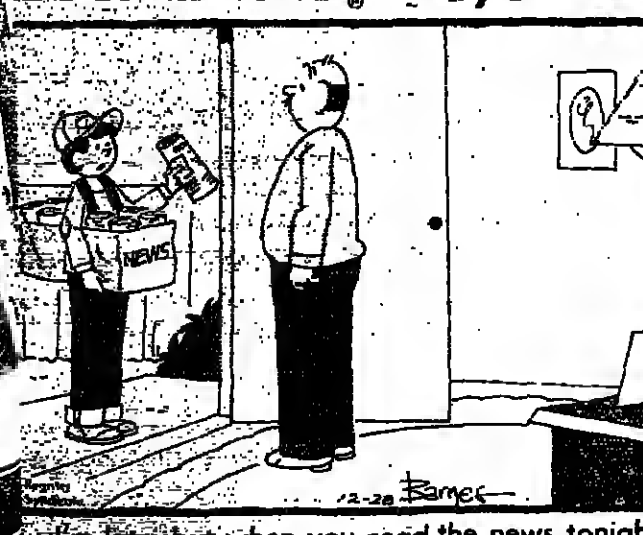
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You can handle anything of a continuity nature very well today, so don't waste time with less important matters.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) A new situation arises today that requires assistance from a higher-up. Take no risks with the one you love.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Be willing to make any changes that are necessary to improve your position in life. Be alert to new opportunities.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You have many duties to fulfill before thinking about outside interests. Make long-range plans for the days ahead.

THE BETTER HALF By Barnes



7 & ABOUT

LANCASHIRE RESTAURANT QUICK MEAL

Best Chinese restaurant in Jordan. Circle, Jabel Amman, near Uthman School or CMS. Tel. 30646. Zaqra Cinema Near Street Tel. 82011. Iradi Baghdad Street Tel. 2408. Naour opposite the municipality Tel. 26. Maraba King Abdullah Street Tel. 180. Mafrq Tel. 194. KERAK Jerash opposite Ajloun crossroad, Sweidh.

Wings Hotel, Jabel Al-Mudhar, Tel. 22103/4. One of THREE not members for lunch and in car. 12-3 p.m. and 7-12 p.m. Tel. 30646.

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GOVERN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

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Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♦ Void
♥ A 3 2
♦ Q 10 7 5 2
♠ A Q J 10

WEST EAST
♦ J 10 5 4 3 ♦ K Q 9 8 7 2
♥ Void ♥ Q J 10
♦ 6 4 3 ♦ K J
♠ K 6 5 4 3 ♠ 7 2

SOUTH
♦ A 6
♥ K 9 8 7 6 5 4
♦ A 8
♠ 9 8

The bidding:
South West North East
1♥ Pass 3♦ 3♦
Pass 5♦ Pass Pass
5♦ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Jack of ♣.

There is much sage advice contained in Victor Mollo's new book "The Finer Arts of Bridge," Faber and Faber, hardbound, 200 pages, \$12.95. Some of it is a distillation of the author's previous works, and while the hands are not new, they are well chosen to give the average player a sampling of some of the more interesting aspects of the game. To us, however, there is something obscure about a price tag of \$13 for a bridge book of 200 pages—that's inflation with a vengeance!

This hand is from a chapter entitled "Psychic Who can blame declarer for swallowing the bait? Instead of having to rely on a 50 per cent chance of the club finesse, declarer opted for the "sure" line. He won the ace of diamonds and took the "marked" finesse for the jack. When East captured the ten with the jack he "could not" have, declarer nearly fell off his chair, for that was down one.



Callaghan tells Parliament U.K. working on 'code of conduct' to curb pickets

LONDON, Jan. 17 (R) -- Britain's minority Labour government, bitterly criticised for its handling of a growing industrial crisis, has promised action to curb strike pickets snarling the nation's supply lines. Prime Minister James Callaghan told Parliament last night that his beleaguered administration was urgently working on a code of conduct for pickets blockading docks, depots and factories.

But in a stormy House of Commons debate he came out against fresh legislation to tame the so-called "flying pickets"—highly mobile groups from the 100,000 striking lorry drivers who have been stopping supplies entering and leaving sites not directly involved in their pay dispute.

With the lorry strike beginning to bite deep and many supermarkets warning that they could soon be out of basic foodstuffs such as bacon and butter, Mr. Callaghan came under fierce attack from opposition leader Margaret Thatcher.

Saying that there was "grave trouble of crisis proportions," Mrs. Thatcher angrily complained that Britain was being run by strikers' committees who decided what goods should be allowed to pass through the picket lines.

She offered her party's support for any legal move to reduce the power of trade unions in a speech which at times aroused noisy acclamation from her Conservative colleagues.

A more subdued Mr. Callaghan promised tighter price controls and a wage policy which would give the lowest paid workers

slightly more than the government's target figure of five per cent.

He also backed the idea of a study aimed at giving state and local authorities' employees salaries comparable to those doing similar jobs in the private sector.

Blunt message

The prime minister had a blunt message for the truck drivers who want their pay increased from £53 for a 40-hour week to £65 for a 35-hour week.

"You have had a better deal than could have been expected, and you should now go back," the prime minister declared.

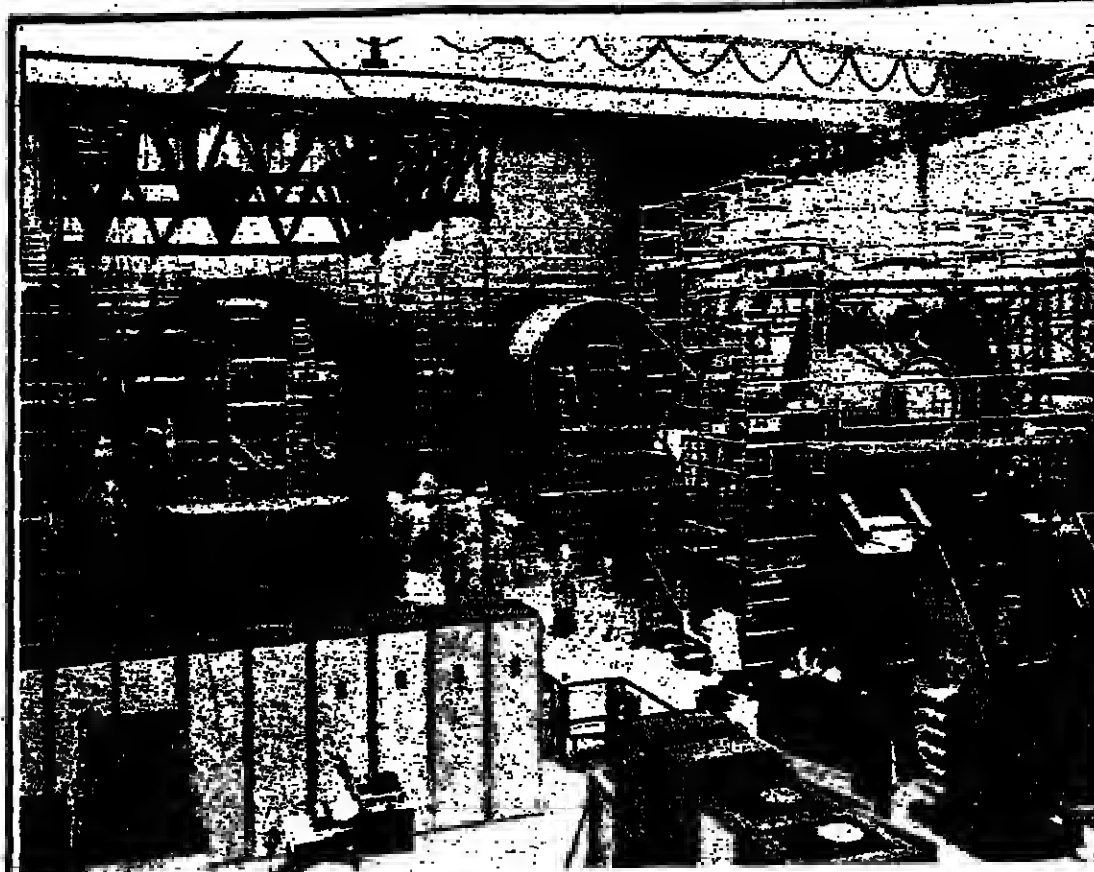
The debate, in which the government survived an opposition challenge, came on a technical motion by 301 votes to 277.

Meanwhile, industrial and freight leaders said that in some areas strike pickets were applying their own rules despite union instructions about letting through essential goods and confining the dispute to road haulage companies.

Adding to yesterday's general gloom was the first of two 24-hour

nation-wide rail strikes which caused long traffic jams on the roads and affected industrial output.

The second strike by the locomotive drivers is due tomorrow. The men are seeking a ten per cent — £7 a week — productivity bonus.



German firm contributes to Spacelab effort

This is the Erno company in Bremen, West Germany, where assembly of European Spacelab prototypes will soon be over. Absolute cleanliness and accuracy to within a hundredth of a millimetre are essential. On schedule at the end of 1978, Erno shipped the first Spacelab equipment ordered by

Nasa: three computers for use at Cape Canaveral, an initial consignment of ground support and simulation equipment. Matra and Cimsa of France also helped to manufacture the computer units. (DaD photo)

Andrew Young says in magazine interview

U.S. hampered by lack of Palestinian relations

UNITED NATIONS, Jan. 17 (R)—U.S. Ambassador Andrew Young, acknowledging the Palestine Liberation Organisation's "tremendous influence," believes American diplomacy is hampered by lack of effective relations with Palestinians.

In a magazine interview, he stopped short of advocating U.S. recognition of the PLO, but said there should be some way to relate to the Palestinian people.

He characterised the PLO's U.N. representatives as "very skilled politicians and very intelligent, decent human beings," who, he hoped, would win in any battle for leadership over those who favoured terrorism.

A transcript of the Jan. 9 interview was issued yesterday by the U.N. association of the United States, which will publish it in its magazine the Inter-Dependent.

Calling the U.N. a place that overwhelmingly supported the underdog, Mr. Young recalled a remark made by Senator Abraham Ribicoff, a member of the General Assembly delegation, that neither the U.S. nor the Soviet Union had nearly as much influence as the PLO.

"It's easy to disagree with that," Mr. Young said. "And yet I think that the relationship that the PLO has had to the U.N. has been one of the things that has made it possible for there to be some mod-

erating influences present in the whole Palestinian equation."

There had been a *de facto* recognition of the political process to liberation by those elements of the Palestinian cause that worked with the U.N., he said.

Not only had the PLO captured the imagination of the Palestinian people, but it also had tremendous influence within Kuwait (a member of the Security Council), Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iraq and Lebanon.

"We may not like it. We don't recognise it. But it doesn't make it any less true," Mr. Young observed.

How the U.S. should relate to the Palestinians was a matter for discussion, he said. The overwhelming reason for America's not having relations with the PLO was probably Israel.

"I don't necessarily quarrel with that," Mr. Young said, "because I think that Israel is going to have to make the decisions about how it is going to relate to the Palestinian people. Now, it has made one attempt, through the development of a political process on the West Bank and Gaza."

"It can evaluate the success or failure of that. That may or may not be a satisfactory approach."

according to the people there involved—the million and a half Palestinians essentially inside Israeli-controlled areas."

He said the frustration of the Camp David accord was being accomplished essentially by Palestinians, who felt it did not give them the kind of representation and guarantee they needed to assure their future or any concept of self-determination. "And that's what I think we're working on," he added.

The Palestinians, who felt left out, did not see the move Israel was making in the direction of peace, he said.

U.S. denies divergence in speeches on its relations with China, USSR

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17 (R) — The White House denied today that President Carter's two top foreign policy advisers had revealed divergent opinions when speaking yesterday about U.S. relations with China and the Soviet Union.

The two foreign policy speeches were delivered to a symposium of 500 U.S. businessmen by Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and the president's National Security

Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski.

Some reporters interpreted the speeches as revealing markedly differing approaches between the two men, with Mr. Vance calling for a balanced relationship with the two communist powers and Mr. Brzezinski taking a more hardline attitude towards the Soviet Union.

White House spokesman Jody Powell denied the two speeches showed different approaches. In

response to a question at his regular news briefing, he said his statement was aimed at reports by the New York Times and Reuters. He added that the president had agreed with him this morning that the two reports were ridiculous.

Mr. Powell said: "These two speeches were carefully coordinated from the very beginning. They were supplementary speeches, with Secretary Vance dealing with the relationship between the United States and China and Dr. Brzezinski dealing with the international context of the relationship."

He said both men had reviewed each other's speeches before delivery. President Carter had also read them to make sure they were in agreement.

Mr. Powell's denial was echoed by State Department spokesman Hodding Carter at a press briefing. "The secretary of state, and I'm speaking for him, categorically rejects the notion that what the two men said yesterday was in conflict or represents differing policy assessments about the world generally or about our relations with the People's Republic of China or the Soviet Union specifically," he said.

World sugar prices have been depressed right through 1978, and they look likely to stay that way for some time. With supply continuing to outstrip demand, efforts to support prices have little chance of succeeding soon.

sugar trading—something they cannot do until the majority of members receive legislative approval for such action from their parliaments back home. Among member governments who still have to ratify the pact, the chief culprit is the United States. The ratification deadline has now been put back a further six months to June 30 and Dec. 31 to allow governments more time.

The problem facing the Carter administration is that Congress is holding out for a domestic sugar price policy that would guarantee farmers a return of nearly 17 cents a pound. Bills offering around 15 cents were defeated in October.

Until Congress is satisfied that domestic producers are protected, legislative approval for the Carter administration's declared aim of ratifying the ISA is likely to continue to be withheld.

stocking scheme from coming into force, the continued delay is also worrying for those producers and consumers committed to the success of the ISA, as the chances of the accord breaking down are theoretically greater as long as it continues to operate on a provisional basis. From time to time there have been rumours that producers were considering breaking ranks, but so far there have been no signs of this. But if the ISA does not become fully operative by mid-1979 and the market, as seems likely, continues to be depressed, some suspect that producer dissatisfaction is likely to grow.

Another big problem facing the world sugar market and the ISA is the fact that the European Economic Community (EEC) is not a member. Although she maintains contacts with the ISA's operators — the London-based

International Sugar Organisation the EEC feels that it would not be able to accept the export quota discipline that membership would entail.

The EEC has a massive annual surplus on sugar beet running beyond 3m. tonnes. Instead of stockpiling, Brussels chose to export its sugar on to the world market with the assistance of subsidies, which this year will probably total around £400m.

This surplus looks to be a permanent fixture for the time being at least. It is a result of the EEC aiming for self-sufficiency in beet production, whilst at the same time being committed to importing 1.4m. tonnes from cane producers in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific—the so-called ACP countries.

There are no plans to even consider altering either of these policies until the early 1980s, and some suspect that the combined pressure of ACP and domestic producers could mean that there will be little change. It looks as if the EEC is going to remain outside the ISA and be free to export as much as possible—something that the world market could well do without.

Financial Times
News-Features

World News Briefs

Negligence behind Spain's July disaster?

TORTOSA, Spain, Jan. 17 (R)—A road tanker exploded and over 200 people beside a Spanish holiday campsite last July because it was overloaded with liquid gas, an examining magistrate has found. Legal proceedings for alleged negligence were taken against the transport company Cisternas Reunidas, owner of the tanker, and the state-controlled Enpetrol company, which of the gas, court officials said yesterday. The magistrate's findings were filed before a Tortosa court last Thursday and the two companies have been given 30 days to pay a surety of \$17 million. The disaster occurred last July 11 at the campsite near San Carlos Rapita on Spain's Mediterranean coast. Pressure rose inside the tanker because it had been overloaded with liquid propylene and because the high summer temperature. The tank, which had no safety cracked under the pressure and the gas ignited.

Lottery winner prefers friends to riches

MAGANO, Japan, Jan. 17 (R)—A 36-year-old Japanese decided that keeping friends was more important than wealth—so he destroyed a winning lottery ticket worth \$5. Hiroshi Kiyokawa said today he burned the ticket in front of colleagues because hitting the jackpot in a national lottery last had created too many problems. Old friends, overcome with shunned him in the sleepy village of Kanazawa where he lives and started spreading malicious gossip. Mr. Kiyokawa had planned to buy a house with the cash and furnish it in a style fit for a bachelor. Now, he will continue to live in a one-room apartment. Officials at the bank which sponsored the lottery suggested money Mr. Kiyokawa would have received should go to his

Blizzard aftermath continues to disrupt midwestern U.S.

CHICAGO, Jan. 17 (R)—Food and fuel supplies were reported running short yesterday in parts of the American midwest, still suffering from a disastrous weekend blizzard.

At least 50 deaths have been blamed on the blizzard—from road accidents, fires, roof collapses, exposure and heart attacks while shovelling snow.

With another storm forecast, many residents who managed to dig their way out of their homes rushed to buy diminishing petrol supplies and stock up on meat, bread and milk.

Transport was moving slowly again on the main highway across the midwest, but many roads were still blocked by up to one metre of snow in Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Wisconsin and Michigan.

The blizzard was one of the worst this century in the midwest, shutting down dozens of major cities and towns and stranding thousands of travellers. Nearly two feet of snow fell in Chicago, surpassed only once in the great blizzard of 1967.

Half the city workforce stayed at home two days ago, but officials said more people were reporting for work yesterday. Chicago's

association of Commerce and Industry estimated the shutdown cost the city \$500 million in lost sales.

Train and bus services were still severely restricted as freezing temperatures hampered the massive snow-clearing task.

The National Weather Centre said more snow was expected, but offered some relief in the form of warmer temperatures in the next few days.

Greece charges Turkey with 'bad faith' in search for solution to mutual problems

ATHENS, Jan. 17 (R)—Premier Constantine Karamanlis said yesterday he hoped Turkey would be less intransigent in future so that the many problems dividing the two neighbours could be solved to their mutual benefit.

Speaking in Parliament during a review of his government's foreign policy, Mr. Karamanlis said Turkey had repeatedly shown bad faith in the search for a solution to these problems.

The two countries are at odds over the Cyprus issue and territorial rights in the Aegean Sea.

Turkey is also blocking the way for a special arrangement being sought by Greece within NATO.

The Greek premier said Turkey had become a captive of its own invasion of Cyprus in the summer of 1974 and should show more understanding so that a peaceful solution could be reached. He said Greece would continue to provide its full support to the Greek-Cypriots for a peaceful and just solution.

The Greek premier told the House that the dialogue between the two countries on the Aegean

disputes had so far not been very fruitful. "We hope that in the future Turkey will be less intransigent so that a solution which will safeguard the security of the two countries can be found," he said.

He accepted that Turkey as a littoral country had certain rights in the Aegean. "But Greece will not make any concessions which run against its interests," he said. "Turkey must understand that the perpetuation of these problems is harmful to both countries."

Speaking about the special rela-

tionship Greece is seeking within NATO following its withdrawal from the alliance's military wing in August 1974, Mr. Karamanlis said it was up to the other NATO partners to make Turkey see the dangers involved in weakening the alliance's southeastern flank at a time of crisis in the eastern Mediterranean.

"We are not prepared to discuss our special status within NATO with Turkey. It is up to the alliance to weigh the interests of the free world," Mr. Karamanlis said.

Sour future for sugar producers

By Alan Spence

LONDON: It is only four years since the price of sugar was £650 a tonne, but it must seem like a lifetime ago for the world's desperate sugar farmers, who in recent months have been faced with price levels below £100 a tonne and look to be saddled with depressed market conditions for the foreseeable future. The basic problem is that there is just too much sugar around, and another surplus could be on its way in 1978-79.

At the moment, world sugar stocks, over 30m. tonnes, are around one-third of the world's annual consumption. Last year, for instance, production outstripped demand by some six million tonnes, making a very welcome addition to stocks. Although some members of the sugar trade originally thought that this season could witness a small deficit, it seems another unfortunate surplus might now be a possibility.

According to influential German sugar statistician F.O. Licht, production could be only 1.4m. tonnes below last year's record output of 42.3m. tonnes.

Mr. Licht's latest estimate is 1.2m. tonnes above his first in October, and if it proves accurate, he believes there could be another surplus, as consumption is unlikely to match this level of production.

With market forces unlikely to assist them in the near future, producers have been looking to the International Sugar Agreement (ISA) to help improve conditions, but though it has done some good, it still has to become fully operational. Provisionally launched on Jan. 1, 1978, it is aimed at stabilising world sugar prices in an 11 to 21 cents per pound range via a system of export quotas and reserve stocking.

As world prices have remained below the floor since the ISA was introduced, producers have been

operating a system of export quotas for the last twelve months or so. They have not been able to turn the market up towards the floor again, but in the opinion of most experts at least they have stopped the price plunging further. It could, some argue, have collapsed to two or three cents per pound, instead of its recent price of about 8.5 cents.

But producers are not too happy with things at the moment, not only because the market remains sluggish, despite their export sacrifices, but because the stocking facility has still to be introduced. This would give producers a small measure of relief in the sense that it would enable them to declare some of their existing stocks to be part of the ISA's special reserve, in which case they would be financed by the ISA.

However, the money is going to be raised by members of the ISA making a levy on international

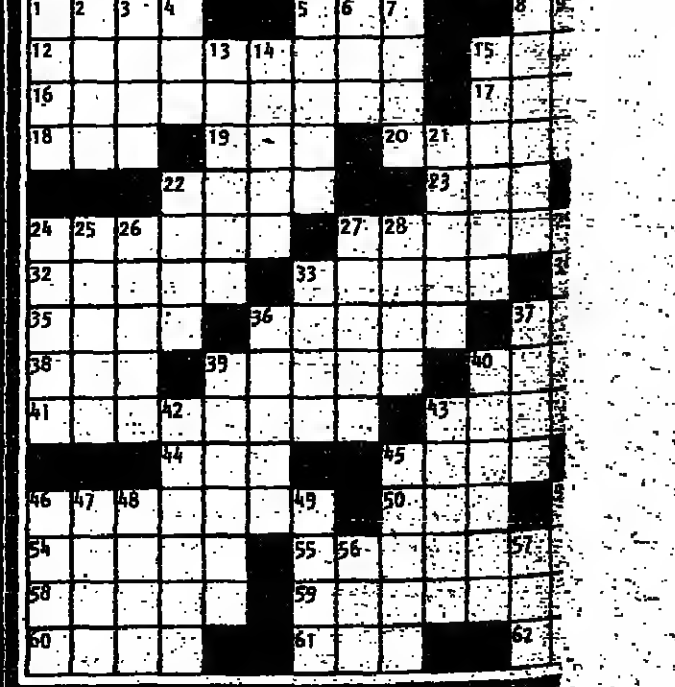
stocking scheme from coming into force, the continued delay is also worrying for those producers and consumers committed to the success of the ISA, as the chances of the accord breaking down are theoretically greater as long as it continues to operate on a provisional basis. From time to time there have been rumours that producers were considering breaking ranks, but so far there have been no signs of this. But if the ISA does not become fully operative by mid-1979 and the market, as seems likely, continues to be depressed, some suspect that producer dissatisfaction is likely to grow.

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THE Daily Crossword by Hugh Miller

ACROSS	32 Correct	51 Aunt Sp.	24 Pa.
1 Karate act	33 Jewish feast	54 Truism	25 Gh.
5 Auto	34 Fodder	55 Minor civil offense	26 35
8 Teepee	36 Many-splendored thing	58 Wanders listlessly	27 Ph.
12 Mexican taste treat	37 Located	59 Meddle	28 29
15 Davis or Midler	38 Three: It.	60 Painting and music	29 30
16 Greek thinker	39 Alexander	61 Springtime	30 31
17 Spirit of the people	40 Bridge ace	62 A Scott	31 32
18 Fascist boss	41 Heron		32 33
19 Digit	42 Malay city		33 34
20 Chaps	43 Sports org.		34 35
22 Drama critic	44 Canape item		35 36
23 Motorists' org.	45 Arthur and Mea		36 37
24 Of dogs	46 Adjective ending		37 38
27 Flower			38 39
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